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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 HA-05 FRB-03 EB-08 AGR-01
/091 W
----------121828 071634Z /47
O 071430Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2045
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 6308

BOGOTA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY VAKY

PASS AID LA/SA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT BL
SUBJECT: EMBASSY'S FY 78 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE RECOMMENDATIONS

REF: LA PAZ 6301

1. PEREA HAS NOW DECLARED HIS GOVERNMENT TO BE A TRANSITIONAL ONE WHICH WILL GUARANTEE NEW, LEGITIMATE ELECTIONS WITHIN 24 MONTHS, IN WHICH HE WILL NOT BE A CANDIDATE AND HIS GOVERNMENT WILL NOT INTERFERE. PEREDA HAS ALSO ASSURED THE POLITICAL PARTIES A ROLE IN PREPARING A NEW ELECTORAL LAW AND GUARANTEED RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. THE PRECISE TIMING AND GROUNDRULES FOR NEW ELECTIONS WILL NOW BE WORKED OUT IN NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN THE MILITARY AND WITH THE POLITICAL PARTIES. THE DEMOCRATIZATION PROCESS HAVING BEEN FIRMLY LAUNCHED ONCE AGAIN, WE CAN LEAVE THIS PROCESS OF NEGOTIATION TO THEM. THIS NEW STRATEGIC COURSE PLACES THE PEREDA GOVERNMENT IN AS FAVORABLE POSITION VIZ A VIZ U.S. INTERESTS AS THE PREVIOUS, BANZER GOVERNMENT. THEREFORE, WE RECOMMEND THAT OUR OVERALL AID STRATEGY FOR FY 78 AND
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FY 79 SHOULD BE TO PROVIDE U.S. ASSISTANCE IN THE ABOUT THE SAME MAGNITUDE AS PROVIDED DURING THE LATER YEARS OF THE BANZER GOVERNMENT, AND TO CONCENTRATE THIS ASSISTANCE ON THR RURAL POOR.

2. BASED ON THE FOREGOING WE RECOMMEND THAT AUTHORIZATION BE GIVEN IMMEDIATELY TO EXECUTE THE LOAN/GRANT AGREEMENTS ON

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VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT AND RURAL ROADS II. WE ESTIMATE THAT NEGOTIATIONS CAN BE COMPLETED IN A FEW DAYS AFTER WE RECEIVE AUTHORIZATION.

3. WE ASSUME THAT GRANT PROJECT AMENDMENTS FOR THE RURAL HEALTH DELIVERY PILOT PROJECT AND EDUCATION MANAGEMENT PROJECT, WHICH ARE CONTINUING, ROUTINE BUSINESS, CAN ALSO NOW BE EXECUTED. RURAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING GRANT IS NEW BUSINESS, AND WE ALSO RECOMMENDSIGNING THIS AGREEMENT THIS FISCAL YEAR.

4. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD NOW PROCEED WITH THE SMALL, $1.4 MILLION, AMENDENT TO THE PL-480 TITLE III AGREEMENT. TIMING IS IMPORTANT HERE, SINCE THE WHEAT MUST BE FOB BY SEPTEMBER 15. WE WILL NEED AUTHORIZATION SOONEST TO PROCEED WITH THIS AMENDMENT.

5. THIS WILL BE RESPECTABLE AMOUNT OF CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR SOUTH AMERICA'S POOREST COUNTRY, AND BY SIGNING NOW WE WILL INDICATE OUR SUPPORT FOR PEREDA'S GENERAL DECISION TO CALL NEW ELECTIONS WITHIN 24 MONTHS. WE RECOMMEND THAT THE HOUSING INVESTMENT GUARANTEE AND RURAL HEALTH DELIVERY SYSTEMS LOAN BE POSTPONED TO FY 79 SINCE THEY WOULD BE TECHNICALLY DIFFICULT TO COMPLETE THIS FISCAL YEAR AND THE RESULTING TOTAL PACKAGE WOULD BE UNDULY LARGE.
BOEKER

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